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Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to bring to the attention of the Security Council the statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea of 7 February 2016 on North Korea's long-range missile launch (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Oh** Joon
Permanent Representative

16-01660 (E) 110216

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on North Korea's long-range missile launch

The Government of the Republic of Korea strongly condemns North Korea's long-range missile launch on 7 February 2016 from the Tongchang-ri missile launch site, North Pyongan province, in spite of repeated warnings by the international community.

North Korea's long-range missile launch, which was carried out during ongoing discussions on a Security Council sanction resolution regarding North Korea's recent nuclear test, is not only a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions but also an extreme act of provocation once again committed solely to maintain the North Korean regime, neglecting the lives of its people and disregarding the international community's earnest desire for peace.

The Government of the Republic of Korea and the international community have made various proposals, including the Six-Party Talks, to make North Korea come to the dialogue table, but North Korea has not responded at all to such proposals.

This has resulted in allowing North Korea to buy time to advance its nuclear capabilities. Now the only way to make North Korea give up its nuclear development is to cooperate closely with the international community to adopt significant and strong sanctions, including Security Council resolutions, so as to make North Korea give up its nuclear programmes.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will not only make all-out efforts to adopt strong sanction measures at the Security Council but also continue to impose necessary pressure so that North Korea will have no option but to change.

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Korea will put the Republic of Korea Armed Forces at a watertight posture of readiness to respond to North Korean nuclear and missile threats and take substantial measures to bolster its security capability at the Republic of Korea-United States of America alliance level.